

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SENSITIVE INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Eastern Germany

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TOPIC Barth Firing RangeEVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED 25X1DATE PREPARED 2 October 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

RETURN TO CIA
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1. The following air activity was observed over Barth firing range between 19 August and 3 September 1952:

19 August. Between 8:25 and 8:40 a.m., the ground target was approached three times by a MiG-15 plane which dived to about 200 meters from the ground before firing with machine guns.

21 August. Between 9:45 a.m. and 12:05 p.m., MiG-15s flying in elements of two attacked the ground target. The planes were fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks. Firing with machine guns was started from an altitude of about 400 meters. The planes flew horizontally as far as the field boundary before climbing. All of the aircraft fired only with machine guns. Between 1:55 and 4:10 p.m., two planes without auxiliary fuel tanks approached the field three times. Firing was started at an altitude of 200 to 300 meters. The planes flew so close behind each other

After the firing practice, one plane climbed to the left and the other one to the right. *

2 September. Between 12:40 and 1 p.m., elements of two MiG-15s practiced firing at ground targets. Each plane fired one or two rounds when approaching the target. Near the target, pieces of sods were blasted into the air. The planes approached at an angle of about 45 degrees, fired from an altitude of about 200 meters and climbed again immediately.

2. After 26 August, practices with searchlights were performed over Dars and Zingst after nightfall. Two searchlights spotted jet fighters flying individually. As soon as the aircraft flew within the beam of the searchlights, the jet fighters switched their aircraft searchlights on, whereupon the ground searchlights were turned off. This exercise was repeated by individual planes until 1 a.m. **

* Comment. The guns, two 23-mm cannons on the MiG-15. **

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** [REDACTED] Comment. The aircraft aloft were probably used as targets for AA and searchlight units which are stationed at Warsaw artillery range for firing. The exercise was probably held to train the searchlights in spotting airborne targets and not for training pilots flying in the beam of searchlights. It is believed that the aircraft of the fighter regiment in Pucka were detached for this exercise.

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